



CEPPS/IFES Quarterly Report: April 1, 2005 – June 30, 2005

Ethiopia Civil Society Capacity Building for Elections 2005/2006

**USAID Associate Agreement 663-A-00-04-00437-00 under
Leader Agreement No. DGC-A-00-01-00004-00**

Project Period: January 1, 2005 – July 1, 2007

Total Budget: \$795,562 Expenses Recorded to Date: \$134,890

Results Statement

Following its departure from Ethiopia, IFES Africa Director and Program Officer met with the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington DC to discuss its civic education program and intention to resubmit its registration application. In May, IFES formally submitted its application to the embassy and has continued to follow-up on the status of its application. All program activities remain on hold pending approval of IFES' registration.

Background

Ethiopia held elections on May 15th amid allegations of fraud and irregularities by elections observers. Violence continued after the May 15th election date over the results and fairness of the election. Thousands of people have been arrested across Ethiopia following the recent violence triggered by demonstrations against alleged fraud in parliamentary elections. The government has come under heavy criticism from the international community for the "excessive force" security forces used against stone-throwing demonstrators alleging massive election fraud. On June 10, following a week of sustained election-related violence that led to 29 deaths, the Coalition for Unity & Democracy (CUD) agreed to a non-violence pact with the ruling government. Violence and resistance sparked by the election caused a rash of injuries and deaths and a security crackdown throughout the country.

According to provisional results, the ruling party- the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) won more than taken a majority with 274 seats. The opposition parties had won 174 seats, and there were more than 61 where ballot counting was still incomplete of the total 500 possible Parliamentary seats. Voter turnout is estimated at approximately 90%.

The results of parliamentary elections were initially scheduled to be announced on June 8th, they were initially delayed by one month after the country's electoral board received complaints from more than half of the constituencies where elections were held. Twenty-six Complaints Investigation Panels (CIPs) were established under the National Electoral

Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) to look into alleged election irregularities and were deployed to disputed constituencies at the end of June.

Election results expected to be released on July 8th were further delay for 2-3 weeks due to unresolved irregularities.

Activities

No activities have been conducted.

Activities Planned for Next Quarter

IFES will continue to follow-up on the status of its registration application with both the embassy and USAID/Ethiopia. If approved, IFES will once again deploy its Country Director and proceed with issuing sub-awards to selected CSOs.